

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
8 February 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Soviet Submarine Base in Cuba

1. Available evidence provides almost certain proof that no Soviet submarines are based in Cuba.

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2. At the present time there is probably no harbor in Cuba that can provide complete logistics support to a submarine detachment. On the other hand, there is a large number of coastal areas where fuel and other supplies might be provided with little or no difficulty.

3. Havana port can provide some support to submarines. One shipyard has marine railways probably capable of servicing submarines and there are numerous small yards which can effect minor repairs. The development of a large Soviet-Cuban trawler base in the Havana area has begun. This base is to have a large floating drydock and diesel repair shops, both useful for submarine maintenance. Other Cuban ports which have some marine repair capabilities include Antilla, Cienfuegos, Matanzas, Nuevitas, and Santiago de Cuba.

4. The USSR now deploys some Northern Fleet submarines in small groups to various undeveloped areas along the coasts of the Kola Peninsula. These detachments are supported by surface auxiliaries including tenders, tankers, repair ships and possibly floating drydocks and floating barracks. (This was

the pattern followed at Valone, Albania, where 12 Soviet submarines and 2 submarine tenders were stationed for several years). In the same manner, the Soviets could turn any sheltered area in Cuba into a submarine base.



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6. In short, the Soviets could use Cuban ports in connection with operation of their long-range submarines.



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